

Proposal for Emoji: Large Black Diamond

Submitter: Woodrow Melling

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1. Identification.

Suggested Unicode name: LARGE BLACK DIAMOND

Suggested keywords: ski, snowboard, trail, slope, difficulty, expert, advanced, mountain bike, run

Suggested category: Symbols > geometric

Suggested sort location: after U+1F537 LARGE BLUE DIAMOND and before U+1F538 SMALL ORANGE DIAMOND.

Reference emoji for frequency evidence: ELEPHANT.

2. Images.

Sample	18x18	72x72
Color		
Black and white		

License: The sample images were created for this proposal by the submitter. The submitter makes no exclusive claim over the underlying geometric idea of a filled black diamond. To the extent any copyrightable rights exist in the sample image styling, the submitter warrants that the images are original and grants the Unicode Consortium the rights required by the Emoji Proposal Agreement and License.

Draft note: This PDF is not submission-ready until the remaining required frequency screenshots are captured in a private browser and inserted.

Abstract

This proposal requests a single geometric emoji: LARGE BLACK DIAMOND. It does not request a ski-area sign, a trail-map sign, or a family of difficulty markers. The proposed character is a general filled black diamond with emoji presentation.

The strongest plain-text use case is a bounded, durable geometric symbol set used across outdoor recreation: green circle, blue square, and black diamond. The first two elements are already interoperable as emoji text: [green circle] and [blue square]. The third is not. Current substitutes fail in plain text: U+25C6  is a text-colored, font-dependent character with no emoji presentation; [diamond suit] is a card suit; [black large square] is the wrong shape; [large orange diamond] and [large blue diamond] are the wrong colors; and CSS rotation or custom styling does not survive copy and paste.

Encoding LARGE BLACK DIAMOND would close that interchange gap without adding an open-ended signage set. Double black diamond can be represented by repeating the single emoji twice.

3. Factors for Inclusion

A. Multiple Usages

LARGE BLACK DIAMOND has a primary geometric meaning and several common domain meanings.

First, it is a filled diamond shape. It belongs naturally with existing geometric symbol emoji such as LARGE ORANGE DIAMOND, LARGE BLUE DIAMOND, BLACK LARGE SQUARE, and WHITE LARGE SQUARE.

Second, black diamond is an established expert/difficult trail-grade symbol in skiing, snowboarding, and mountain biking. The National Ski Areas Association describes ski trail signage as using colored symbols on maps and trails where shape and color indicate difficulty; its listed difficulty symbols include green circle for easier, blue square for more difficult, and black diamond for most difficult. Parks ACT describes mountain-bike trail ratings using the IMBA trail difficulty system and lists black diamond as the symbol for difficult trails.

Third, the symbol has list, table, and status-marker utility independent of outdoor recreation. A black filled diamond is useful in compact text where color and shape both matter: difficulty keys, route labels, progressions, ratings, ranked lists, and visual notation.

B. Use in Sequences

The proposed emoji is useful in sequences.

Examples:

Sequence	Meaning
[green circle] [blue square] [LARGE BLACK DIAMOND]	easy / intermediate / advanced or expert trail-grade set
[LARGE BLACK DIAMOND][LARGE BLACK DIAMOND]	double black diamond
[skier] [LARGE BLACK DIAMOND]	expert ski run
[mountain biker] [LARGE BLACK DIAMOND]	difficult mountain-bike trail
[map] [LARGE BLACK DIAMOND]	map key or route marker

Only the single character is requested. The repeated sequence addresses double black diamond without requiring additional emoji.

C. Breaking New Ground

This emoji breaks new ground because there is no emoji-presentation black diamond geometric shape.

Unicode already includes emoji-presentation colored diamonds in orange and blue, and black/white square and circle shapes. Unicode emoji-test data lists U+1F536 LARGE ORANGE DIAMOND, U+1F537 LARGE BLUE DIAMOND, U+1F538 SMALL ORANGE DIAMOND, and U+1F539 SMALL BLUE DIAMOND, but not a black large diamond. It also lists U+2B1B BLACK LARGE SQUARE, which cannot substitute for the diamond shape.

The gap is not merely aesthetic. For plain-text interchange, black diamond requires both shape and stable color. Existing text character U+25C6 BLACK DIAMOND can inherit the surrounding text color and has font-dependent metrics. That makes it unsuitable where the intended meaning depends on a visibly black filled diamond next to colored emoji shapes.

D. Distinctiveness

The proposed emoji is visually distinctive at small sizes. Its silhouette is a simple filled diamond, and the sample image uses a subtle edge treatment so the black shape remains visible on dark backgrounds. At 18x18 pixels, the diamond outline and fill remain legible; at 72x72 pixels, vendors have room for normal platform-specific emoji styling.

This is distinct from:

Existing character	Problem
◆ U+25C6 BLACK DIAMOND	text presentation; inherits text color; font-dependent
[diamond suit] U+2666 DIAMOND SUIT	playing-card suit, not a general geometric diamond
[black large square] U+2B1B BLACK LARGE SQUARE	correct color but wrong shape
[large orange diamond] U+1F536 LARGE ORANGE DIAMOND	correct shape but wrong color
[large blue diamond] U+1F537 LARGE BLUE DIAMOND	correct shape but wrong color

E. Frequency

Frequency evidence must be captured as screenshots in a private browser immediately before submission. The working packet tracks the required Unicode evidence set and includes current draft observations.

Required evidence still to attach before submission:

Required by Unicode	Proposed query set	Status
Google Search	black-diamond ski, orange diamond, elephant	Capture needed
Google Video Search	black-diamond ski, orange diamond, elephant	Capture needed
Google Trends: Web Search	black diamond, orange diamond, elephant, United States, 2004-present	Captured manually; source screenshot needs to be restored into packet
Google Trends: Image Search	black-diamond ski, orange diamond, elephant, widest available range	Capture needed
Google Books Ngram Viewer	black diamond, orange diamond, elephant, widest available range	Capture needed

Draft observations already captured by the submitter:

Source	Region / range	Terms	Observed result
Google Trends Web	United States, past 24 hours	black diamond, orange diamond	black diamond average 36; orange diamond average 0
Google Trends Web	United States, 2004-present	black diamond, orange diamond, elephant	black diamond average 57; orange diamond average 5; elephant average 63

The second observation is especially useful because Unicode requires elephant as a comparator for Google Trends evidence, and because orange diamond already exists as an emoji. The comparison shows that "black diamond" has durable web-search interest substantially above "orange diamond" and in the same order of magnitude as elephant in the captured United States 2004-present view.

For final submission, screenshots must be public, reproducible, and included in the PDF, not merely summarized here.

F. Completeness

This character completes a small, bounded real-world geometric set that is already mostly representable in emoji text: green circle / blue square / black diamond.

The argument is not that every trail rating deserves a separate emoji. It is that this specific set has three core geometric elements and two of them already have reliable emoji-presentation characters. The absence of the third prevents plain-text interchange of the set. Encoding one black diamond character completes the set while preserving economy: double black diamond remains a repeated sequence, and trail-specific signs remain out of scope.

G. Compatibility

n/a.

There is not yet strong public evidence that a popular encoded-emoji system has a dedicated black diamond emoji that requires compatibility mapping. This proposal should stand on distinctiveness, frequency, sequence utility, and completion of a bounded geometric set.

4. Factors for Exclusion

A. Already Represented

The concept is not already represented as emoji text.

U+25C6 BLACK DIAMOND (◆) is a Unicode text character, but it is not an emoji-presentation character in the emoji-test data and does not provide stable emoji color. In real text, it follows the current text color, so it may render white or light gray in dark mode and black in light mode. This is not equivalent to an interoperable filled black diamond emoji.

U+2666 DIAMOND SUIT ([diamond suit]) is already an emoji, but it represents a playing-card suit. It is narrower and semantically different from a general large geometric diamond. It also commonly renders red, which conflicts with the intended black geometric symbol.

U+2B1B BLACK LARGE SQUARE ([black large square]) is stable in color but fails the shape requirement. A rotated square produced by CSS, markup, an image, or a custom sticker is not plain text and does not survive normal copying, searching, sorting, or platform interchange as a Unicode character.

B. Overly Specific

The proposal is not overly specific. It is not for "expert ski trail sign" or "black diamond trail marker." The proposed character is a general filled black diamond in the geometric-symbol category. Skiing and mountain biking evidence demonstrates high-utility, durable usage of the geometric symbol, not a request to encode signage.

C. Open-Ended

The proposal is not open-ended. It requests one emoji only. It does not request white diamond, double black diamond, triple black diamond, green circle, blue square, trail signs, or a complete set of recreation symbols.

Double black diamond can be represented by repeating the proposed emoji twice. Any other sport- or venue-specific meanings remain out of scope.

D. Transient

The black diamond symbol is not transient. It appears in long-running ski trail rating systems and in mountain-bike trail difficulty systems derived from international marking practice. It is also a stable geometric form in Unicode's existing symbol repertoire.

E. Existing Emoji

The proposal is not justified merely because green circle and blue square already exist. The core issue is the inability to express a durable three-symbol set in interoperable plain text. Green circle and blue square demonstrate that two parts of the set already work as emoji; they do not by themselves justify the proposal.

5. Other Information

Plain-Text Interoperability Gap

Plain-text Interoperability Gap

The first two trail-grade symbols have stable emoji presentation; the third currently does not.

Light text context

Current: green circle / blue square / U+25C6

 Black diamond follows text color

Fallback: green circle / blue square / U+2B1B

 Color survives, shape is wrong

Proposed: green circle / blue square / new black diamond

 Shape and color both survive

Dark text context

Current: green circle / blue square / U+25C6

 Black diamond follows text color

Fallback: green circle / blue square / U+2B1B

 Color survives, shape is wrong

Proposed: green circle / blue square / new black diamond

 Shape and color both survive

The current interchange gap is easiest to see in the common trail-grade sequence:

Attempt	Plain-text result	Issue
green circle / blue square / U+25C6	[green circle] [blue square] ◆	third symbol is text-colored and font-dependent
green circle / blue square / black large square	[green circle] [blue square] [black large square]	third symbol has wrong shape
green circle / blue square / proposed emoji	[green circle] [blue square] [LARGE BLACK DIAMOND]	shape and color both survive as emoji text

This problem cannot be solved by CSS rotation, custom fonts, images, stickers, markup, or private-use characters, because those are not interoperable plain text.

Signage Risk

Unicode's guidelines identify signage and UI icons as automatically declined categories. This proposal avoids that category. It does not ask Unicode to encode a sign found at a resort or on a map. It asks for a general emoji-presentation geometric symbol that fills a plain-text gap.

The official trail-grade sources are included as usage evidence because they show that black diamond is a durable, widely recognized geometric symbol. The proposed name, category, sort location, sample image, and requested repertoire item are all geometric, not signage-specific.

Prior Proposals

The Unicode Emoji Proposals Status list records "Large Black Diamond and Large White Diamond" as declined on July 22, 2020. That decline is outside the current four-year re-review bar as of July 18, 2026.

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The same status list records "Trail" as declined on April 16, 2024. That decline is inside the four-year bar and is a material framing risk. This draft therefore does not propose a trail emoji and does not frame LARGE BLACK DIAMOND as signage. It proposes a single geometric symbol with broader use and a specific plain-text interchange gap.

Design Guidance

The sample image is intentionally simple: a filled black diamond with slight edge/highlight treatment in the color version so the symbol remains visible on dark backgrounds. Vendors should not be asked to reproduce the exact sample. Platform-specific emoji style is expected.

The black-and-white sample uses only black and white, not grayscale. It is included to demonstrate the silhouette and satisfy the image-format requirement.

Sources

- Unicode, "Guidelines for Submitting Unicode Emoji Proposals," last updated May 20, 2026.
<https://www.unicode.org/emoji/proposals.html>
- Unicode, "UTS #51: Unicode Emoji." <https://www.unicode.org/reports/tr51/>
- Unicode, "FAQ - Emoji & Pictographs." https://www.unicode.org/faq/emoji_dingbats.html
- Unicode, "Emoji Keyboard/Display Test Data," Version 17.0, dated August 4, 2025.
<https://unicode.org/Public/emoji/latest/emoji-test.txt>
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- National Ski Areas Association, "Trail Signage." https://nsaa.org/NSAA/Safety/Trail_Signage/NSAA/Safety/Trail_Signage.aspx?hkey=5625dd89-f9ff-4fe5-9417-88259c81e35d
- Parks ACT, "International Mountain Biking Trail Rating System."
<https://www.parks.act.gov.au/before-you-go/international-mountain-biking-trail-rating-system>